

**MINUTES OF  
YONKERS CITY SCHOOL LIBRARY SYSTEM COUNCIL MEETING  
June 13, 2024**

The meeting was held on Zoom and was called to order by Jim Riley, Council President.

**Council Members Present:** James Riley (President), Peter Sieh, Nicole Taylor-Wernham, Carol Westphal, and Dr. Cynthia Palmer, *ex officio*.

**Excused:** Alyssa Colon-Garcia, Don DeMatteo, Z Baird and Jesse Montero

**Approval of Minutes:** The minutes of the May 21, 2024 meeting was corrected and approved.

**Reports:**

**Membership:** (Carol Westphal)

- We will revisit membership at our first meeting for the 2024-2025 school year.

**Professional Development:**

• Library Services:

- May 23, 2024 – Jim Riley, Nicole Taylor-Wernham and Carol Westphal along with their colleagues attended the districts 1<sup>st</sup> Department Rep Share Fair at the Yonkers Board of Education. YPS Board Members and District Office personnel attended. Each group shared their presentation with staff from schools across the district.
- May 28, 2024 – YPS and YPL staff held their final meeting regarding Summer Reading 2024. Students and families will receive a brochure and all information can be accessed on both the YPS district Schoolwires page and YPL website.
- Dr. Palmer reported both Superintendents Conference Days in September will be school led.
- Dr. Palmer stated for the 2024-2025 school year all YPS staff will attend four scheduled half-days of Professional Development by Department. All LMS will meet with Dr. Palmer.
- Dr. Palmer will meet with all LMS on Superintendents Conference Day, November 5, 2024. She has begun planning the day as well as scheduling guest speakers for this event.

**Yonkers Public Library Report:**

- YPL will host their 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Make Music event on June 21, 2024.
- The seed library sponsored by Con Ed is thriving at YPL branches and at homes in Yonkers.
- YPL will host a Walking Tour to promote better health.
- YPL will host Storytime, read to Cooper the dog, as well as teen and adult events throughout the summer. Check out the YPL website for more information.
- Reading Buddies, a joint reading program with JCY will be held at the Riverfront Library.

**Library Services Report:**

- Dr. Palmer reported Summer Reading posters, brochures and bookmarks were sent to all schools.
  - Brochures include a QR code for students to sign-up and track the number of books read at any of the YPL branches. Students will return their Reading Log to their teacher in September.
  - Families can also access the Summer Reading brochure on the YPS district webpage.
  - Jim Riley created a video on how to use SORA, which will be available on the Summer Reading homepage.
  - The Summer Reading homepage will also include required reading assignments from the various high schools.

- On April 29, 2024 - Dr. Palmer attended a meeting with the BOCES planning committee to debrief regarding the BOCES School Library System Annual Conference held on April 12, 2024.
- Dr. Palmer will attend a virtual meeting on The Science of Reading. Reading teachers and LMS will support this initiative.
- On May 30, 2024 - Dr. Palmer attended the SLMSSSENY Rip Van Winkle Awards Dinner. This year's recipient was award-winning children's author Barbara Dee.
- Next school year Dr. Palmer would like the LMS to prepare book orders early. She noted the book budget will probably be less than this year.
- On June 11, 2024 - Vicky Sweet our Capstone rep provided a Zoom meeting for administrators and teachers on how to access and read a Capstone eBook on their school's Follett Destiny catalog.
- With the closing of School 9 and Thomas Cornell Academy, Jim Riley and Carol Westphal will visit each school and pack up the collection. Books will be sent to our two new schools, Justice Sonia Sotomayor Community School and Robert Halmi Sr. Academy of Film and Television.

**Website:** (Cynthia Palmer)

- Summer Reading Information will be posted to the District's Schoolwires Page.

**Old Business:**

- None

**New Business:**

- Due to budget cuts four library positions will be eliminated.
- High school library positions have been reduced to .5 which is a violation of the state regulations.
- Three high school positions will be paired with an elementary K-8 building.

**Announcements:**

- Jim Riley and Mariana Sugrim will participate in the YPS STEAM Program this summer
- Carol Westphal will take part in the Secondary Summer Program at Yonkers M/HS.
- Jim Riley and Peter Sieh will participate in the Smart Start Program this summer along with a colleague from their respective school.
- Nicole Taylor-Wernham was asked by Project Look Sharp to become a certified trainer for the YPS district. She is waiting on paperwork and will attend Professional Development in July if she chooses to become a trainer.
- Jim Riley and Carol Westphal will set up the two new school libraries at the end of August. Each library will include a Promethean Board and a desktop computer,
- June 18, 2024 - Dr. Palmer will meet with the BOCES Planning Committee to begin planning the School Library System Joint BOCES Conference for 2025.
- Next Meeting: TBA

**Motion to Adjourn:** Approved

**Minutes:** Respectfully submitted, Carol Westphal